GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1291
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF RAIL CORRIDOR BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND EUROPE VIA INDIA
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are examining the feasibility of developing Railway corridor between Singapore and Europe via India;

(b) if so, whether any Committee has been set up for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether neighbouring countries have been contacted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reaction of these countries thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is attached

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1291 BY ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL TO BE ANSWERED ON 2.3.2000 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF RAIL CORRIDOR BET SINGAPORE AND EUROPE VIA INDIA:

(a) to (e): The proposal for developing a Railway Corridor linking Europe/CIS countries andSingapore/South East Asian countriesvia India is being pursued under the aegis of International Union of Railways (UIC), Paris andUN-ESCAP, Bangkok.UN-ESCAP has submitted a report on the Network Identificationand other related issues of the Southern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway from Kunming in China/Bangkoki n Thailand t o Kapikule (Bulgaria)/CIS countries.The report is under examination bythe member countries.

Under UIC, a Corridor Task Force has been set up headedby Chairman, Railway Board, India in connection with the setting up of the South East Asia- West Asia RailCorridor from Singapore to Turkey/CIS Countries via India.Ministry of Railways has also been trying with UIC and UN-ESCAP to pool their efforts and resources for a synergistic approach on the project.

Neighboring countries have been involved in multilateral fora, both at UN-ESCAP'sExpert Group Meeting at Dhakain May'99 and in the on-going initiative by UIC'sCorridor Task Force. They have supported the initiative in principle, and their definite views on alignment and on other technical matters are being coordinated by UN-ESCAP and UIC respectively.